AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device ~~Device~~ to eliminate extraneous air, which was introduced by open containers (3), from a clean room (1) ~~which~~ that is filled with clean gas and encloses container processing machines (14, 20; 24), the ~~said~~ clean room being constantly supplied with clean gas to compensate for gas losses, said device comprising:

~~characterized in that~~

a discharge cell (9) ~~is~~ mounted in the clean room (1) and ~~communicates~~ communicating, via~~by~~ an exhaust conduit (12, 17), which runs out of the clean room (1), with ~~the ambience~~ ambient and, via ~~by~~ an aperture (11), with the clean room (1), and,

mutually oppositely blowing slit nozzles (A, B) being ~~situated at the~~ disposed at an edge of the aperture (11) and blowing clean gas at each other in ~~the~~ a plane of the aperture (11), the discharge cell (9) being configured ~~in~~ such ~~manner~~ that, at least at the filling site of the containers (3), ~~it shall~~the discharge cell at least ~~enclose the~~ encloses mouth zones of the containers.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device as claimed in claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the discharge cell (9) encloses at least ~~the~~ an upper zone of the container (3).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the discharge cell (9) is bell-shaped and comprises a circular aperture (11) ~~(Fig. 2)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the discharge cell (9) is elongated and tunnel-like ~~(Fig. 3)~~ and comprises a slot-shaped aperture (11).

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the discharge cell conduit is a slot (17).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device as claimed in claim 4 used to process containers (3) revolving at the periphery of a rotary machine (7, 14, 20; 26),

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the discharge cell ~~tunnel~~ (9) is split longitudinally, with one ~~of its parts~~ part of the discharge cell (10a1, 10b1; 28a, 28b) revolving jointly with the machine (14), ~~its other~~ another part (10a2, 10b2; 29a, 29b) of the discharge cell being connected to the stationary housing (2) of the clean room (1).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device as claimed in claim 6 for use with neck-flange bottles (3') held by neck supports (41), wherein

~~characterized in that~~

the neck supports (41) are mounted on the revolving part (10b1; 28b) of the discharge cell (9).